

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 161

Introduced by Assembly Members Conway and Logue

June 11, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 161—Relative to horse racing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 161, as introduced, Conway. Horse racing: California Chrome.

This measure would recognize the performance of California Chrome during his run for horse racing’s Triple Crown, including his victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, would recognize and congratulate the many Californians who are part of his ownership group, breeding and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to the success of California Chrome, and would recognize the history of horse racing in California and its contributions to job creation and the state’s economy.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Few California-bred horses may claim to winning
2 any one of the Triple Crown races – the Kentucky Derby, the
3 Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes – as 1,800 foals are born
4 in California compared to 20,000 foals in Kentucky; and
5 WHEREAS, Four “California-bred” horses, including a horse
6 named California Chrome, may boast a Kentucky Derby win, and
7 no California horse has won the Triple Crown; and
8 WHEREAS, California Chrome’s upbringing is a story that
9 embodies the very best of California’s horse racing traditions and
10 landscape as he was foaled in the horse breeding division of Harris
11 Ranch, the state’s largest beef producer; and

1 WHEREAS, California Chrome’s mother, Love the Chase, was
2 an unfortunate racing filly purchased by Steve Coburn of Topaz
3 Lake, Nevada and Perry Martin of Yuba City, who together own
4 Martin Testing Laboratories located at the McClellan Business
5 Park in Sacramento; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Coburn and Mr. Martin purchased Love the
7 Chase outright for a paltry sum of \$8,000, a transaction that
8 prompted someone to say that “only a fool would buy Love the
9 Chase,” and, as such, Mr. Coburn and Mr. Perry formed a company
10 aptly named Dumb Ass Partners, or DAP; and

11 WHEREAS, DAP retired Love the Chase in 2009, bred her with
12 the equally unimpressive Lucky Pulpit, and together the two horses
13 sired California Chrome, who was born in 2011 with four white
14 stockings and a white stripe down his face, features that horse
15 aficionados call “chrome”; and

16 WHEREAS, California Chrome bears many unique
17 characteristics, including him appearing to deliberately stop and
18 pose for cameras as he hears them clicking while walking in the
19 stable area, which prompted his exercise rider, Willie Delgado, to
20 give him an additional nickname, “Vogue”; and

21 WHEREAS, Another unusual characteristic is that California
22 Chrome refuses to walk forward out of horse vans when the
23 transport vehicle is designed for a forward exit, preferring to back
24 out instead; and

25 WHEREAS, As a two-year-old, California Chrome raced several
26 times at Los Angeles’ Hollywood Park, San Diego’s Del Mar
27 Racetrack, and Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, where he won some
28 races and finished sixth in others; and

29 WHEREAS, Jockey Victor Espinoza and California Chrome
30 had been unstoppable together, with a six-race winning streak that
31 included the Golden State Juvenile Stakes, California Cup Derby,
32 the San Felipe Stakes, and the Santa Anita Derby; and

33 WHEREAS, The pair dazzled fans during this year’s Kentucky
34 Derby and Preakness Stakes, where California Chrome won by 1
35 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lengths, respectively; and

36 WHEREAS, California Chrome gained nationwide appeal, but
37 the core of his fan base was centered in the Central Valley of
38 California, where the Sacramento television market ranked sixth
39 in the nation for television viewership for the Preakness Stakes,
40 and third in the nation for the Belmont Stakes; and

1 WHEREAS, Local followers of California Chrome in the Central
2 Valley, also called “Chromies,” liked that purple was a color on
3 the horse’s racing silks, similar to the team colors of the
4 Sacramento Kings; and

5 WHEREAS, Eleven horses entered the Belmont Stakes, and
6 California Chrome drew post position number two, the same post
7 position of former Triple Crown winner Secretariat in the 1973
8 Belmont; and

9 WHEREAS, Out of the gates, California Chrome was stepped
10 on by the horse next to him, tearing off a “chunk” of his hoof, yet
11 despite this most unfortunate occurrence, California Chrome
12 finished in a dead heat for fourth with Wicked Strong; and

13 WHEREAS, As a result of his unique pedigree and remarkable
14 racing accomplishments, California Chrome has been dubbed
15 “America’s Horse,” has earned over \$3.4 million in earnings, and
16 has tremendously benefited the state’s \$34 billion horse racing
17 industry; now, therefore be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the outstanding
20 performance of California Chrome during his remarkable run for
21 horse racing’s Triple Crown, and, in particular, for his tremendous
22 victories in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes; and be
23 it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and congratulates the
25 many Californians who are part of the ownership group, breeding
26 and training cadre, and other essential elements that led to the
27 success of California Chrome; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes the storied history of
29 horse racing in California, and horse racing’s important
30 contributions to job creation and the state’s economy that result
31 from a vibrant California horse racing industry; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.